

Commission proposed writing off of the entire accumulated losses of the company as on 31.3.1999 along with disinvestment of not less than 51% of its remaining equity to a strategic buyer. No time frame has been decided for the revival of the company which *inter alia* includes writing off of the accumulated losses and extension of Govt. Guarantee.

Fate of Applicants for Technical Operative Training in BSP

† 1109. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 450 applicants were selected for Technical Operative Training in Bhilai Steel Plant and all the formalities including medical examinations were completed;

(b) whether 250 applicants, out of them, have not been called, so far, while the age limit of the above said applicants is going to expire;

(c) whether some of the applicants have committed suicide; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not filling up of the posts lying vacant due to voluntary retirement of the employees in a large scale in Bhilai Steel Plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAT KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a), (b) and (d) After completion of the selection process for the post of Technician cum Operative Trainee (TOT) in Bhilai Steel Plant (BSP), results were declared in December, 1997. 350 candidates could join as TOT. The remaining 275 candidates were placed on panel for future consideration, depending on the availability of vacancies. While calling the candidates for medical examination, it was made clear that their joining in BSP would depend upon the availability of vacancies. Due to enhancement in the age of retirement from 58 to 60 years besides ban on recruitment in BSP, the above mentioned candidates could not be inducted in BSP. However, after a review of the manpower requirements sometime back, 137 persons placed in the panel were called for verification, and out of these 125 candidates who reported for verification have been issued offers for induction as TOT in Bhilai Technical Institute.

(d) BSP has informed that it is not aware about any such action.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.